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Committees
Economic Development, Small
Business and Regulatory Reform VC
Families and Human Services VC
Government Operations
Health Policy

The Jacobs Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WAYNE STATE AND OAKLAND UNIVERSITY LIMIT TUITION HIKES

This week, the board of governors at Wayne State University and the board of trustees at Oakland University approved official actions limiting tuition increases to 2.4 percent.

Each pledge is in accordance with inflationary limits set by Governor Granholm, who promised not to cut the base funding of those universities limiting their 2004-05 increases to the rate of the Detroit Consumer Price Index.

The state will also restore 60 percent of a 5 percent cut that was imposed in December as part of a budget balancing executive order.

Three universities have now committed to the tuition agreement. Michigan State University agreed to the tuition guarantee pledge last week.

The governor's deadline for participation is June 30.

TRASH MEASURE ATTEMPTS TO HALT OUT-OF-STATE WASTE INCREASES

A report released this week by the Department of Environmental Quality Waste revealed that nearly one-quarter of all trash dumped in Michigan's landfills originates from Canada and other states. Canadian waste alone comprises nearly 15 percent of Michigan's waste site volume.

The report shows a two percent increase in the total amount of trash dumped by Michigan residents from September 2002 to September 2003. Trash from out of state sources during that time period was up by a whopping 35 percent.

A spokesperson for the waste industry said that out-of-state levels would continue to increase before leveling off in a few years. There is growing public sentiment, however, for the Legislature to pass bills putting greater environmental controls over trash coming into the state.

In releasing the report, Governor Jennifer Granholm repeated the call she made last week in her State of the State address for the Legislature to send her bills that would put greater controls on the industry.

House Democrats jumped on the report, slamming leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature for holding up their package of trash control bills. The House GOP caved, passing House Bills 4098- 4099.

The two-bill package, sponsored by Rep. Paul Gieleghem (D-Clinton Township) would allow Michigan to reject trash from states that have less stringent regulatory systems and add returnable containers to the list of items prohibited from disposal in Michigan landfills.

The bills now await committee referral in the Senate.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

You're heart tells you when you're in love, hurt or afraid—but it may not let you know that you have heart disease. The American Heart Association is targeting women this year, asking them to pay more attention to their hearts—all the time—for the purpose of living longer, stronger lives.

Call 1-888-MY-HEART or visit www.americanheart.org to receive your free heart-health tool kit. You'll get tips and information on free lifestyle change programs that will help your heart, health and life.

Other heart-smart websites:

American Heart Association www.americanheart.org

Michigan Department of Community Health www.michigan.gov/cardiovascular

Healthy People 2010 www.Healthypeople.gov

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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